

## REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action mailed April 4, 2006. Claims 14 to 25 and 33 to 42 were previously withdrawn. Claims 1 and 26 are amended. New Claims 43 to 66 have been added. No new matter has been added.

A Request for Continued Examination has been submitted herewith. Please charge any fees owed in connection with this Response and RCE to Deposit Account No. 02-1818. Please reference number 0112300-720 if such a withdrawal is made.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1 to 13 and 26 to 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Walker* (US Publication 2004/0204229) in view of *Schaefer* (US Publication 2004/0201169). Applicants respectfully disagree with and traverse these rejections. Nevertheless, Applicants have amended the claims to clarify the meaning of the existing claim language.

Specifically, independent Claim 1 now recites "wherein said selections are pickable by a player in each play of a game only until the player obtains a designated combination of said puzzle pieces in said play of the game." Claim 26 now recites "enabling the player to pick one selection from a plurality of selections associated with said puzzle pieces \*\*\* in each play of the game only until a designated combination of the puzzle pieces is obtained by the player."

*Walker* and *Schaefer*, alone or in combination, do not teach this feature. *Schaefer* is directed to a scratch-off lottery ticket. The Office Action reasons that *Schaefer* allows a player to pick the selections in each play of the game until the player obtains a designated combination (e.g., puzzle A, B, C, or D) and further allows the player to continue picking selections after a designated combination is obtained. The scratch-off lottery ticket game, however, does not operate such that the selections are pickable by a player in each play of a game only until the player obtains a designated combination of puzzle pieces. For instance, a player of the scratch-off lottery ticket game may reveal less than all the selectable puzzle pieces in the first play area and have a match with the puzzle pieces in the game region, thus obtaining a designated combination for a first play of the

game (e.g., a match in puzzle A). The player would still be able to select the remaining unselected puzzle pieces from the play area in another play of the game to try to obtain a second designated combination of puzzle pieces in the game region (e.g., a match in puzzle B). Although in this instance the player may be able to select the pieces in one play of a game until a designated combination is obtained, the selections are not pickable in each play of a game only until the player obtains a designated combination.

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 to 13 and 26 to 32 are patentable over Walker and Schaefer and are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 and 26 has been further amended merely for clarification purposes. These further amendments to Claims 1 and 26 were not made to overcome the art of record or to disclaim any subject matter regarding the same.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY



---

Adam H. Masia  
Reg. No. 35,602  
Customer No. 29159

Dated: July 5, 2006